

San Diego DX Club Bulletin

August 2022



MEETING PROGRAM

Our presenter will be a member of the Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) team.

MEETING NOTICE

The August, 2022 meeting of the SDDXC will be held on Wednesday, August 24th at 6:30 P.M. PDST at Elijah's Restaurant located at 7061 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard as well as on Zoom. Come early for social hour and dinner.

From the Prez

2

Secretary/Treas Report

3

SDDXC TOP 10

4

SDDXC Contest Results

5

From the Editor

6

Sponsor Recognition

12



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From the Prez . . .

Miguel, KJ6YXI

Topic: SDDXC August, 2022 Meeting

Time: Aug 24, 2022 06:30 P.M. Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86410098500?pwd=V855KD7kNkiC6Ms1DTOfT9PUxWDpn.1>

Meeting ID: 864 1009 8500

Passcode: 911591

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Passcode: 911591

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbzPfsUGZN>

Miguel, KJ6YXI

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

SDDXC Meeting Minutes, July 27, 2022

Our July meeting was held in person at Elijah's Restaurant and on Zoom. Twenty-Three members attended (13 in person and 10 on Zoom). We had no guests.

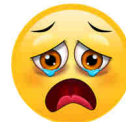
At 6:30 P.M. Tom Myrick, N6JOJ called the meeting to order.

At 6:35 P.M. Ron Payne, WA6YOU gave a presentation on "Coax Cable and Connectors; The Timorous Art Of Termination," followed by a question-and-answer session.

At 7:35 P.M. we started our round table.

At 7:51 Old Business: None

New Business: 1. Visalia is in the planning stages for 2023. 2. There may be a summer bash this year depending on member interest. 3. Randy Standke, KQ6RS announced that he will not continue the Secretary/Treasurer position after the current term ends in May 2023.



At 7:57 P.M. the meeting adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

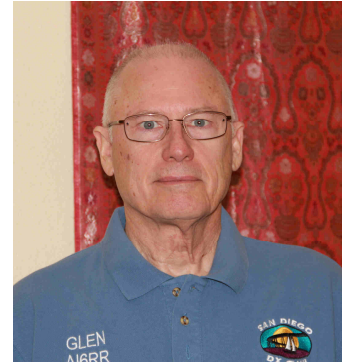
Income for July:	None
Expenses for July:	\$149.90 Zoom 12-month renewal
Balance on 8/11/2022:	\$6,320.10

Randy, KQ6RS



SDDXC DX STANDINGS

By Glenn, AI6RR



Standings are always available on the SDDXC website at
[San Diego DX Club \(sddxc.org\)](http://sddxc.org)

By Glenn, AI6RR

SDDXC Contest Results

By John, K6AM



SDDXC RESULTS

Summer doldrums mean no contest results this month.

By John, K6AM

From the Editor

By: Bob, K9RHY

Don C. Wallace, W6AM, Amateur Radio's Pioneer



After watching a great side-by-side comparison of the FTdx10 against the IC-7300 on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wSBEHPiw7I&t=1826s>, I originally decided to write about how the digital revolution, computers and SDRs have changed ham radio and DXing. (BTW—that Yaesu FTdx10 looks awesome!) But as I sat down to write this piece I learned about the passing of a great friend and fellow DXer, Jim O'Connell, W9WU, who became a Silent Key yesterday. Hearing about Jim's passing I decided to move my story ideas around to honor not only the loss of a good friend but to reminisce about some of the true greats of our hobby (passion).

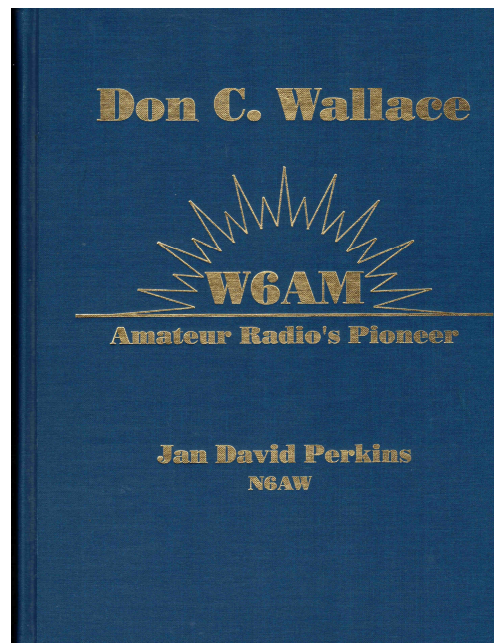
I recently acquired a book written by Jan David Perkins, N6AW, about the life of one of The Greatest DXers of our time (arguably of all time): Don Wallace, W6AM. So I decided to spend a few of our minutes together remembering what DXing is all about and how our predecessors - so many great DXers all—lived for the love of working the next New One.

While far from being a book report, this note will describe some anecdotes about the life and times of W6AM.

Don operated in an era very different from today. Jim McCook, W6YA's QRZ.COM page sums it all up:

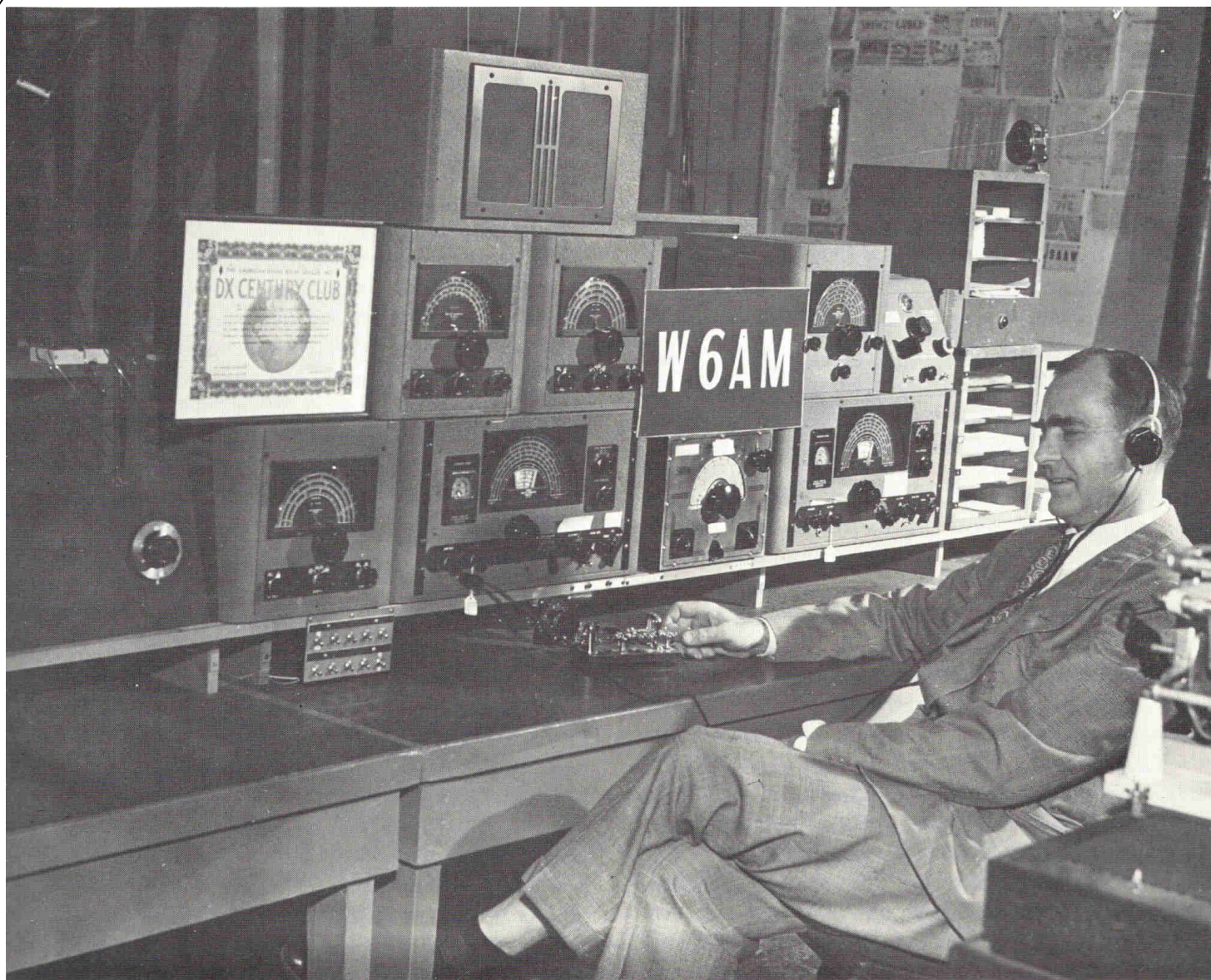
An Ode To CW

In days of old, when ops were bold,
And sideband not invented,
Words were passed by pounding brass,
And all were quite contented.



By the way, Jim is mentioned frequently throughout Jan's superb DXer biography.

As promised earlier, this narrative isn't a book report. I have drawn from some brief thoughts and illustrations to highlight some of Don's essence. When putting this together, I was reminded that Don led the DXCC Honor Roll when I was just a young whippersnapper. As last month's SDDXC Bulletin described, making it to the Top of the Honor Roll requires a lifetime of commitment to chasing (and catching) DX. It was Don's life.

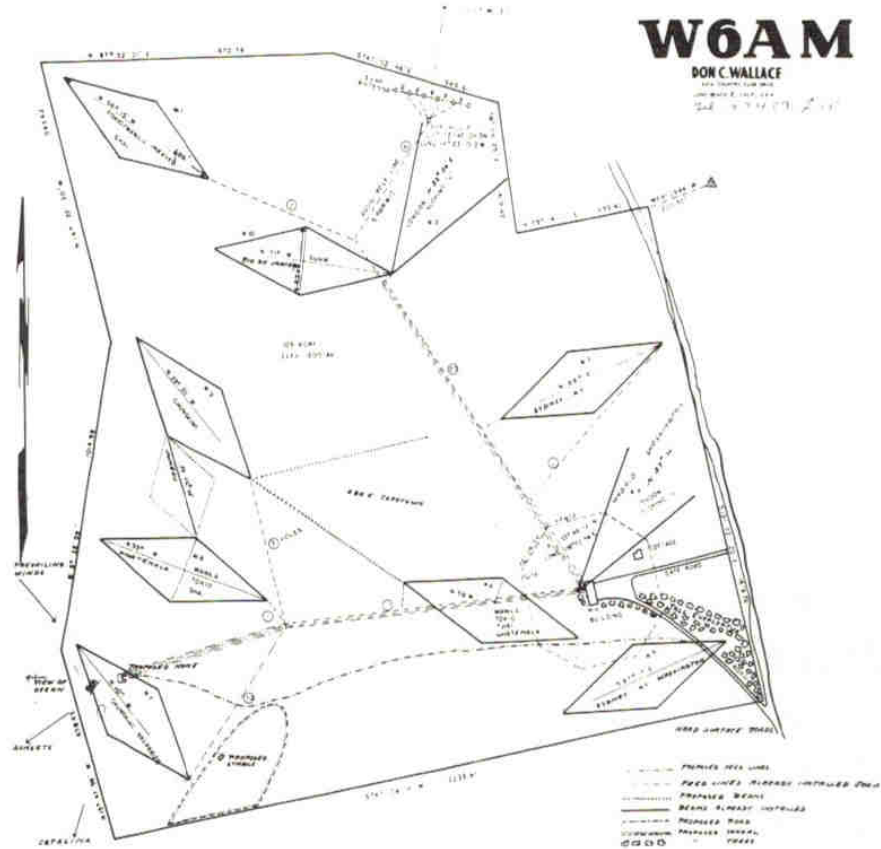


Don at his operating position in 1949.

I clearly recollect looking at the DXCC standings in QST as long ago as my Novice days in 1959. The wrestling match was between W6AM and Charlie Mellen, W1FH (SK). When my ticket arrived in the mail (snail was all we had back then) Don was at the #1 position with 296 entities confirmed and Charlie was at his heels at #2 with 295. WOW!

How he got to the top spot still blows me away. Part of the secret to Don's success was (as in real estate—and he had a LOT of real estate) location, location, location. Don was also a superb operator with a great station and loads of determination, but location—and big antennas—helped.

W6AM rhombic antenna farm as purchased from Press Wireless



**Arial view of W6AM
rhombic antenna farm**



Thanks to QSL.net and NE6I for the following:

"The W6AM station was legendary around the world. Don could beat you in a pileup for some obscure African station no matter what band, and even if you were on the east coast. And him in Southern California.

Don was #1 on ARRL's DXCC Honor Roll, and you didn't argue. No matter where you were, no matter what you were running, Don had beaten you in a pileup. More than once.

One summer afternoon in 1986, a bunch of us in the Southern California Contest Club were just wrapping up a club meeting at our usual haunt at a pizza parlor. Jim Neiger, N6TJ invited us to follow him to Don's place for an impromptu tour. Don had passed away the previous spring at age 86 (May 25, 1985), and Jim was the caretaker of the property at the time. A few had other obligations but the rest of us asked, "are you kidding?!" And off we went, a caravan of SCCCers following Jim on the freeway from San Fernando Valley to Rolling Hills, where the king of Southern California DXing had lived. I had goose bumps all over as I drove up in my vintage 1967 Mustang fastback. On my own turf, I felt like I was half a somebody. In Rolling Hills, I felt like an ant. Microscopic. A nobody visiting a god. Or at least ham radio heaven.

The station was well beyond anything I had imagined. Radios, wires, awards, certificates, pictures and oh yes, antennas galore. It was well beyond the most amazing amateur radio installation I had ever dreamed of. I was obviously in the ultimate DX station of all time.

Most of us can only dream of having a rhombic antenna. Don had 14 of these things! 61 telephone poles supported his antennas, scattered around 120 acres. Another 110 poles carried the feedlines to the antennas. The installation dwarfed all other amateur radio installations."



Luxury Homes Proposed for Famed Radio Site : W6AM Is Over, May Soon Be Out

By: Gerald Faris , Los Angeles Times, June 1, 1986

The past and the future are bumping heads on 24 open hilltop acres long famous for radios and farming. When it was the Wallace Ranch, the property on Highridge Road was a window on the world for Don C. Wallace, who spent 40 years talking to hundreds of thousands of amateur radio buffs worldwide from W6AM, his ham radio station. The land is still farmed, the most recent crop being hay.

Now, just a year after Wallace's death at 86, a partnership headed by developer Ronald Florance, who is also a Palos Verdes Estates city councilman, has purchased the property for an undisclosed price. The group plans to build 83 homes in what Florance's architect has described as an elegant style reminiscent of the Italian coastal resorts of Portofino and Amalfi.

Radio and history buffs, however, want a corner of the property set aside equipment, and this has put them at odds with Florance, who says that the run-down building and Italianate luxury homes would not mix.

Study Ordered

After a public hearing last week, the Planning Commission directed its staff to conduct an environmental study focused solely on whether the ranch warrants designation and preservation as a historic site preserving Wallace's ranch house and radio .

Radio advocates say the historic value of the Wallace Ranch lies in the ham station as Wallace created it, and in the site itself. Wallace personally selected it as the best location for radio transmission on the West Coast when he was scouting sites in the 1920s for Press Wireless, an overseas radio communications company. Wallace bought the property, as well as additional land that he later sold, in 1945. When he died, his son, William Wallace, said, "There are 2 million ham operators in the world and dad knew a million of them."

World Famous Station

Jay Holiday, vice president of the American Radio Relay League, told the commission that W6AM "was one of the most famous radio stations in the world."

Calling the ranch a "major World War II communications link," Ken Dyda of the Rancho de los Palos Verdes Historical Society said the property is of "major historical significance for the United States." Dyda and others said a small piece of land should be set aside on an outer corner of the development for the building and radio equipment.

Sarah Grimes, whose husband, Elmer, has been farming the land for 13 years, said vintage farm equipment, and perhaps a small simulated field, also should be preserved so school children can understand the peninsula's the Peninsula's agricultural heritage.

Four generations of a family of farmers have worked that land,” she said.

Florance, however, took another view of what is left of Wallace’s legacy. He said the ranch house, with its long veranda, was put together with “spit and glue” and is dilapidated.

Equipment Donated

He said that the building and radio equipment belong to the Wallace family, not his partnership. Some of the equipment has been donated--to the Queen Mary and California State University Northridge, among others--and the rest is in storage and will be donated, Florance said. He said the family also plans to remove the forest of wooden antenna poles, some as high as 140 feet, which have been landmarks for decades.

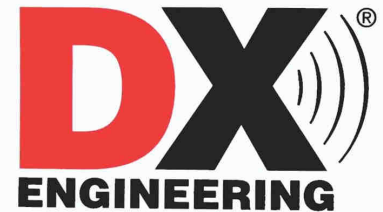
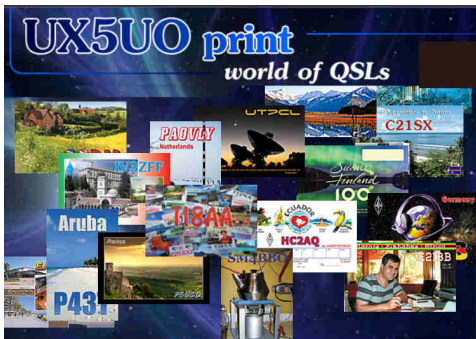
In an interview, Florance said people in the neighborhood have called him and said they hope the antenna poles and the commercial radio towers still in use will be removed. “The station interferes with telephones and television,” he said.

(Sounds familiar—ed.)

Bob, K9RHY

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